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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/372,365	08/11/1999	SATYAN G. PITRODA	2683/74619	1321

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, NGA B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3628

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/372,365

Applicant(s)

PITRODA, SATYAN G.

Examiner

Nga B. Nguyen

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NW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 and 43-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 43-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 18, 2004 has been entered.

2. Claim 44-51 have been added.

Claims 1-11 and 43-51 are elected for consideration in this application.

Response to Arguments/Amendment

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 and 43-51 have been considered but are moot in view of new grounds of rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-11 and 43-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,794,207, in view of Murcko, Jr. (hereinafter Murcko), U.S. Patent No. 6,578,014.

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Regarding to claim 1, Walker discloses a service provider for administering a plurality of accounts for a client, comprising:

a computer, having a processor, a data storage medium, and a network port (see figure 2, items 205, 250, 245);

the storage medium configured to store the client's personal information, account information, and transactional information (column 13, lines 1-10, 23-35, 63-67, Buyer database 255, Buyer account 297, CPO database, Counteroffer database);

the processor configured to:

create a database of client information including the client's personal information, account information corresponding to a plurality of accounts associated with the client, and transactional information corresponding to plurality of transactions conducted by the client (column 13, lines 1-10, 23-35, 63-67, Buyer database 255, Buyer account 297, CPO database, Counteroffer database);

designate as confidential a predetermined first portion of the database client information (column 13, lines 1-10);

designate as non-confidential a predetermined second portion of the database of client information non-confidential (column 13, lines 23-30);

provide the client with access to the predetermined first and second portions of the database of client information via the network port (column 17, lines 27-47 and column 22, line 52-column 23, line 17).

provide a plurality of vendors with access to the predetermined second portion of the database of client information via the network port (column 18, lines 55-column 19, line 12);

Walker does not directly teach deny access for the plurality of vendors to the predetermined first portion of the database of client information. However, restricting some particular people access to a specific database is well known in the art. Moreover, nowhere in Walker's teaches that the sellers can access to buyer database or buyer account database, the sellers can only access to the CPO database to bind to CPO submitted by the buyers. Therefore, it would have been obvious in Walker's that central controller does not allow the sellers access to the buyer database for the security purpose, to protect the buyer confidential information.

Moreover, Walker does not teach designate a selected vendor from the plurality of vendors; provide the selected vendor with access to selected information from the predetermined first portion of the database of client information. However, Murcko teaches designate a selected vendor from the plurality of vendors; provide the selected vendor with access to selected information from the predetermined first portion of the database of client information (column 25, lines 20-25; figure 17; column 27, lines 20-30; the system allows the buyer to select a specific seller through the Buyer Item Request form 1700; column 32, lines 50-58; the system allows the selected seller to access to the database of items requested by buyers). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the feature above with Walker's for the purpose of providing the buyer a flexibility to select only the sellers whom the buyer desires to conduct transaction with, thus time consuming because the buyer does not need to deal with the sellers who do not meet the buyer's acceptance criteria.

Regarding to claim 2, Walker further discloses the storage medium is further configured to store information corresponding to the plurality of vendors;

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and the processor is further configured to: create a database of vendor information; receive a transaction request from a client; analyze information in the database; analyze information in the database of vendor information; analyze information in the database of client information; provide a suggested transaction to the client based on the information in the database of vendor information and the database of client information (column 12, line 54-column 14, line 7; column 13, lines 10-22; column 17, lines 43-47; and column 23, lines 1-5).

Regarding to claim 3, Walker further discloses the processor is further configured to: establish communication with a vendor via the network port; disclose information from the predetermined second portion of the database of client information to the vendor; receive information from the vendor; provide information received from the vendor to the client (column 18, line 55-column 19, line 60).

Regarding to claim 4, Walker further discloses the processor is further configured to: establish a communications with a service institution via the network port; receive transaction information corresponding to the client from the service institution; add the transactional information received from the service institution to the database of client information (column 21, lines 29-37).

Regarding to claim 5, Walker further discloses the processor is further configured to: establish communication with the client via the network port; receive information from the client; and add the information received from the client to the database of client information (column 15, line 60-column 16, line 65).

Regarding to claims 6-9, Walker further discloses the information received from the client includes transaction information, personal information, account information, promotional information (column 13, lines 1-10, 23-35, 63-67).

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Regarding to claim 10, Walker further discloses the processor is further configured to establish communication with an electronic transaction device and transactional information is received from the electronic transaction device (column 12, lines 40-53).

Regarding to claim 11, Walker further discloses the processor is further configured to: establish communications with a service institution via the network port; receive information corresponding to the client from the service institution; add the information received from the service institution to the database of client information; establish communication with the client via the network port; receive information from the client; add the information received from the client to the database of client information; and reconcile the information received from the service institution with the information received from the client (column 17, lines 27-47).

Regarding to claims 43-45, Walker further discloses the processor is further configured to: comprise a client data consolidation expert system, the client data consolidation expert system receiving input information comprising client profile information (column 13, lines 1-10), transaction and records analysis (column 13, lines 23-35), and privacy specifications (column 13, lines 63-67). Moreover, Murcko teach the client data consolidation expert system is configured to suggest to the client at least one selected vendor from the plurality of vendors to designate for receiving access to selected information from the first portion of the database of client information; allow the client to designate for receiving access to selected information from the first portion of the database of client information (column 25, lines 20-25; figure 17; column 27, lines 20-30; the system allows the buyer to select a specific seller through the Buyer Item Request form 1700). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary

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skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the feature above with Walker's for the purpose of providing the buyer a flexibility to select only the sellers whom the buyer desires to conduct transaction with, thus time consuming because the buyer does not need to deal with the sellers who do not meet the buyer's acceptance criteria.

6. Claims 46-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,794,207, in view of Dahod et al (hereinafter Dahod) U.S. Patent No. 6,574,608, and further in view of Brandt et al (hereinafter Brandt), U.S. Patent No. 6,714,979.

Regarding to claim 46, Walker discloses a service provider for administering a plurality of accounts for a client, comprising:

a computer, having a processor, a data storage medium, and a network port (see figure 2, items 205, 250, 245);

the storage medium configured to store the client's personal information, account information, and transactional information (column 13, lines 1-10, 23-35, 63-67, Buyer database 255, Buyer account 297, CPO database, Counteroffer database);

the processor configured to:

create a database of client information including the client's personal information, account information corresponding to a plurality of accounts associated with the client, and transactional information corresponding to plurality of transactions conducted by the client (column 13, lines 1-10, 23-35, 63-67, Buyer database 255, Buyer account 297, CPO database, Counteroffer database);

designate as confidential a predetermined first portion of the database client information (column 13, lines 1-10);

designate as non-confidential a predetermined second portion of the database of client information non-confidential (column 13, lines 23-30);

provide the client with access to the predetermined first and second portions of the database of client information via the network port (column 17, lines 27-47 and column 22, line 52-column 23, line 17).

provide a plurality of vendors with access to the predetermined second portion of the database of client information via the network port (column 18, lines 55-column 19, line 12);

Walker does not directly teach deny access for the plurality of vendors to the predetermined first portion of the database of client information. However, restricting some particular people access to a specific database is well known in the art. Moreover, nowhere in Walker's teaches that the sellers can access to buyer database or buyer account database, the sellers can only access to the CPO database to bind to CPO submitted by the buyers. Therefore, it would have been obvious in Walker's that central controller does not allow the sellers access to the buyer database for the security purpose, to protect the buyer confidential information.

Walker does not teach allow the client to designate as confidential or non-confidential portions of the database. However, Dahod teaches allow the client to designate as confidential or non-confidential portions of the database (figure 5; column 33-39). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Walker's to include the feature above for the purpose of providing the client a flexibility to designate as confidential or non-confidential portions of the database in order to protect the client confidential information.

Walker does not teach an internal server, including an internal database, the internal server configured to perform backend processing; and a firewall separating the internal server from the electronic commerce server. However, Brandt teaches an internal server, including an internal database, the internal server configured to perform backend processing; and a firewall separating the internal server from the electronic commerce server (figure 6; column 10, line 60-column 67; the firewall 55(b) separating the MCI Intranet Midrange Servers 60 (internal server) from the Web server 44 (electronic commerce server)). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the feature above with Walker's for the purpose of improving security in order to prevent unauthorized users to access to the secure web server.

Regarding to claims 47-48, the client identifying information comprises the name and a telephone number associated with the client (column 13, lines 1-2).

Regarding to claim 49, Walker further discloses the processor is further configured to: comprise a client data consolidation expert system, the client data consolidation expert system receiving input information comprising client profile information (column 13, lines 1-10), transaction and records analysis (column 13, lines 23-35), and privacy specifications (column 13, lines 63-67).

Regarding to claims 50-51, Walker does not teach the electronic commerce server and the internal server are physically and logically separate servers. However, Brandt teaches the electronic commerce server and the internal server are physically and logically separate servers (figure 6; column 10, line 60-column 67; the firewall 55(b) separating the MCI Intranet Midrange Servers 60 (internal server) from the Web server 44 (electronic commerce server)). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art

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at the time the invention was made to include the feature above with Walker's for the purpose of improving security in order to prevent unauthorized users to access to the secure web server.

Conclusion

7. Claims **1-11 and 43-51** are rejected.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to the examiner Nga B. Nguyen, whose telephone number is (703) 306-2901. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Souh, can be reached on (703) 308-0505.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

9. **Any response to this action should be mail to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
c/o Technology Center 3600
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9326, (for formal communications intended for entry)

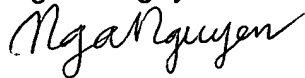
or:

(703) 308-3961 (for informal or draft communications,
please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451
Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Seventh Floor (Receptionist).

Nga B. Nguyen

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nga B. Nguyen".

June 23, 2004